

105.2024_WitRpt_Raymond Schneider_p1

Q And were you in the neighborhood of Derussey's Lane or the Phillips' farm on the morning of September 14th, 1922?

A Yes, sir.

Q About what time did you go there?

MR. PFEIFFER: You said 14th, Senator. You mean the 15th.

Q (By Senator Simpson.) The 16th, 1922, the day these bodies were found. A. Yes, sir.

Q What day of the week was that? A. Saturday.

Q And did you go there to this field from your home?

A No, sir.

Q Were you alone when you went there? A. No, sir.

Q Who accompanied you? A. Pearl Baimer.

Q Where had you met Pearl Baimer?

A College Avenue and Hamilton Street.

Q How far is that from the place where these bodies were found?

A About two miles or more.

Q Do you remember what time you had met Pearl Baimer?

A Between half past seven and eight.

Q And had you met her by appointment, -half past seven and eight in the morning? A. It was.

Q Daylight saving or standard time?

A I couldn't say which one.

Q Well, when you met her where did you go with her?

A Out College Avenue to Derussey's Lane.

105.2024 P2

Q. How long did it take you to get to Derussey's Lane?

A. About an hour.

Q. What did you see, if anything, when you got there that attracted your attention? A. Two bodies laying there.

Q. Where were they lying? A. In the field.

Q. What field? A. Phillips' farm.

Q. And where with reference to Derussey's Lane?

A. Off of Easton Avenue.

Q. Was there any ~~mark~~ crab apple tree around there?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How near did they lie to the crab apple tree?

A. Well, fifteen feet, if I am not mistaken.

Q. Just look at this picture and see if you can tell whether it is a correct representation of the place where the bodies was found as of the time you found them, and whether the bags in that picture are in the positions these bodies were when you found them.

MR. RFEIFFER: May I ask Senator Simpson to let us know when the picture was taken?

MR. SIMPSON: I don't know, it was sold in New Brunswick. One of the ~~independent~~ investigators says it was sold in New Brunswick for twenty five cents apiece. Of course, under Turess V. Susquehanna all that is necessary to do is to have him say it is a correct picture.

105.2024 p3

MR. PFEIFFER: If that is for the purpose of showing a picture of the scene without reference to the bags placed there--

Q Well, I asked him whether the bodies were in the position the bags were.

MR. PFEIFFER: We don't want to be bound by somebody placing bags. Probably some man taking this picture put them in that location so that they would show up. We don't want to be bound by that.

Q Look at the picture and see whether you can say whether that is a correct picture of the physical situation, and whether the bags are in the position you found the bodies. Just say, if you can say that. I ask you to look at the picture. A. This scene does not seem to be correct.

Q That is not a correct picture then, that you know of?

A No, sir.

Q You would say that is not a correct picture?

A No, sir.

Q Would you now describe what you saw in reference to these two bodies? You got there with the girl, and saw these two bodies--what did you see?

A It seems they was covered over, the face with a hat and a scarf, scarf over the woman's face, hat on the man's.

Q Did you go and make any investigation or go on?

105.2024 p 4

A I went right on.

Q Did not stop? A. No, sir.

Q How long were you away? A. About five or ten minutes.

Q And then did you come back again? A. Yes, sir.

Q When you came back what did you find?

A Seen the bodies in the same position where they were.

Q Can you describe the position the bodies were in?

A Feet towards Easton Avenue, heads toward Hamilton Street.

Q Describe the arms, what position were they in?

A If I am not mistaken, one arm was under one of the heads,
I don't know which one it was.

Q Describe the heads. A. Hat on the man's face.

Q How about the lady's head?

A A scarf was around her face.

Q Her face was wrapped up in a scarf? A. Yes, sir.

Q What about her hat? A. I did not see any hat.

Q What about the clothes, were they disordered or composed?

A They were perfect.

Q That is to say, they were not disordered?

A No, sir.

Q Did you see anything like papers, cards or cartridge shells?

A There was papers around the bodies.

Q What condition were they in? A. Rimpiled up.

Q Where were they? A. Down along the side, and between the
center.

105.2024 p 5

Q Did you take the hat off the man's face?

A No, sir.

Q Did you take the scarf off the woman's face?

A No, sir.

Q What examination did you make? A. When we went close to them I seen the spots of blood on the man's face, and we went to Mrs. Stryker's home.

Q Did you see any blood anywhere but on the face of the man?

A No, sir; I did not.

Q And what did you do when you saw the blood on the face of the man? A. I went to Miss Stryker's.

Q Did you in any way touch the bodies or papers or disarrange the bodies or interfere with them in any way?

A No, sir.

Q You simply left them as you found them? A. Yes, sir.

Q Can you tell us about the time you first saw the bodies lying in the field? A. About between nine and ten.

Q In the morning? A. Yes, sir.

Q Was anybody around there?, A. No, sir.

Q Did you see any burlap bags, cartridge shells or anything of that kind? A. No, sir.

Q Did you see any automobile tracks or foot prints?

A No, sir.

Q Did you see any heel prints? A. No, sir.

Q Where is Mrs. Stryker's house?

105.2024 p6

A Out on Easton Avenue.

Q About how far? A. About half a mile.

Q Did you leave anybody with the bodies or did you take the young lady with you?

A The young lady went with me.

Q What did they do? A. They issued a phone call to the State Police Headquarters.

Q Did you try to do it yourself?

A I tried it and my voice was gone, so Mrs. Stryker's niece called up the police headquarters.

Q Did you go back ~~xxxxxxxx~~ to the bodies?

A Not until the authorities came.

Q Who came to Strykers' house? A. Officers.

Q Do you know who they were?

A One was Mr. Curran.

Q What did you do then? A. I went to the Phillips farm.

Q And did you see the bodies there? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did the officers go with you? A. Yes, sir.

Q How long did you stay around there?

A Until the Somerset authorities came.

Q Were you there when Mr. Totten came there?

A Yes, sir.

Q Were the bodies in the same position when he came there as they were when you found them? A. Yes, sir.

105.2024 p7

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PFEIFFER:

Q When you first saw these bodies, Schneider, Pearl Baimer was with you, wasn't she? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did she stay with you all the time between your first seeing them and the time you went to the Strykers' house?

A Yes, sir.

Q Was she by your side all the time? A. Yes, sir.

Q You say you looked at them and walked on? A. Yes.

Q And she walked on with you? A. Yes, sir.

Q And you walked around and then came back? A. Yes, sir.

Q Why did you turn around and come back?

A That is the only way out of that field.

Q Well, you had been there before hadn't you?

A Not around that time.

Q Had you ever been there at night before? A. No, sir.

Q Well, didn't you testify at one time that you were in De-russey's Lane on Thursday night?

A That was a misstatement.

Q That was on the affidavit on which Hays was arrested, is that correct? A. Yes, sir.

Q And that is the only time you have sworn to that?

A Yes, sir.

Q And it is not the fact you were there Thursday night?

A No, sir.

Q When was the last time you were in the lane prior to Satur-

105.2024 p8

day morning, September 16th?

A That was the last time.

Q When was the last time you were there before September 15th?

A Never before.

Q This was the first time you had ever gone there?

A Yes, sir.

Q Why did you take Pearl Baimer out there?

A I just knew her.

Q Why did you go in that particular direction?

A No other place to go.

Q What time did you meet Pearl Baimer?

A Between half past seven and eight.

Q Where? A. College Avenue and Hamilton Street.

Q How far is that from the Phillips farm?

A Two or three miles.

Q And you walked the entire distance? A. Yes, sir.

Q What was your idea in going out there?

A No idea at all.

Q It has been reported that you were going to pick mushrooms.

A That was a false statement by Pearl; that was her make up.

Q How long had you known Pearl?

A Over three years.

Q How old was she in 1922?

A She claimed she was nineteen.

Q How old was she, if you know? A. I don't know.

105.2024 p9

Q You think she was younger than that? A. I couldn't say.

Q What did you say to her and what did she say to you when you first saw the bodies?

A She said there were two bodies lying there and I said "Yes" and we went right ~~mmex~~ on.

Q Will you speak up so that everybody can hear? Who said that, you or she? A. Both of us.

Q Did you and she both say there were two bodies?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did you observe too that they were dead?

A No, sir.

Q In what position was the hat upon Dr. Hall's head when you first went there and saw the bodies?

A On his face.

Q Were you able to see his face?

A I didn't take notice to his face at first.

Q I say, were you able to see his face, in view of the fact that his hat was over his face? A. No, sir.

Q Well, subsequently you did look at his face.

A Just a second time.

Q Did you take the hat off? A. No, sir.

Q Well, how did you see his face then without taking the hat off? A. I was back of him and on to his right.

Q You were back of him--you would see the top of his head?

A See this part here (illustrating).

105.2024 p10

Q I see, and you saw blood there? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you see a bullet wound? A. No, sir.

Q Just saw blood? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you see the letters that you have heard about--did you see them in a pile near the bodies?

A No, sir; I did not.

Q Well, you mean that they were not there, or you did not just see them. A. I did not see them.

Q Are you able to testify whether they were there or not?

A No, sir; I could not.

Q Did you see any calling cards scattered around?

A There were cards and papers there.

Q Did you see a calling card of Dr. Hall propped up against his foot? A. No, sir; I did not.

Q And how long was it from the time you first observed the bodies with Pearl Baimer before you came back to the bodies?

A About five or ten minutes.

Q And she came back with you to the bodies? A. Yes, sir.

Q And it was when you came back that you looked at Dr. Hall's face and saw there was blood?

2 A Part of it, showing from under his hat.

Q You saw that when you came back? A. Yes, sir.

Q Did you see a watch chain on Dr. Hall?

A There was a small piece.

Q Did you see a watch there? A. No, sir.

105.2024 pl

Q Did you see a bill fold lying there by his shoulder?

A No, sir; I did not.

Q Then I understand you to testify you did not touch the bodies at all? A. No, sir; I did not.

Q Had you ever previously touched those bodies?

A No, sir.

Q How long did you stay there at the scene of the bodies when you went the second time to them?

A I stayed at the scene until the authorities came.

Q Oh, no, you didn't, you said you went to Mrs. Stryker's home. How long did you stay there before you went to Mrs. Stryker's house? A. Only a few seconds.

Q And was there any conversation between you and Pearl Baimer when you were there the second time?

A We only went right on down to Strykers.

Q There was no conversation at all? A. No, sir.

Q Do you mean you did not say you were going down to telephone? A. We went right down to Strykers' and I told Mrs. Stryker about it; I asked her for the phone and she showed it to me, and then I got to the phone and I could not speak.

Q What was it you told Mrs. Stryker?

A About finding the bodies.

Q Repeat what you said. A. I could not repeat at this time, because it is over four years back I spoke it.

105.2024 p12

Q But the substance of what you said was what?

A About the bodies being up there on the Phillips farm.

Q And was Pearl Baimer at the Stryker house with you?

A Yes, sir.

Q And then someone else telephoned because your voice was husky? A. Yes, sir.

Q And where did Pearl Baimer go?

A Stayed there until the authorities came.

Q Stayed where? A. At the Strykers' home.

Q But you came back to the field?

A With the authorities.

Q You stayed at the Stryker home until officer Corrigan came?

A Curran, I know.

Q Well, is Curran an officer of the city of New Brunswick?

A Yes, sir.

Q Then he came? A. Yes, sir.

Q And you went with him to the scene? A. Yes, sir.

Q And Pearl Baimer stayed at the Stryker house?

A She went up, I am pretty sure.

Q Went up where? A. Up to the Phillips farm.

Q And you were there then how long at the Phillips farm?

A Until they sent word to Somerset County.

Q Did you stay about an hour? A. An hour or more.

Q And was Pearl Baimer there all that time?

A I could not say if she stayed there.

105.2024 p13

I don't know if she was dismissed by one of the New Brunswick authorities or not.

Q You don't know whether she was dismissed by one of the New Brunswick authorities or not--evidently you did not leave the Phillips farm with Pearl Baimer.

A No, sir; I did not.

Q And after that when was the next time that you saw Pearl Baimer? A. In the Prosecutor's office.

Q How long after Saturday, September 15th?

A Three or four days.

Q Three or four days, and thereafter ensued the episode when you made an affidavit and Clifford Hays was arrested again?

A Yes, sir.

MR. PFEIFFER: That is all.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SIMPSON:

Q When you first saw these bodies did they look as if they were sleeping? A. Yes.

Q That is, they were so composed they looked to you as if they were sleeping? A. Yes, sir.

RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PFEIFFER:

Q Schneider, I understood you to say you had not ~~ever~~ ever been at those farms before this Saturday morning?

A Yes, sir.

105.2024 p14

Q How did you know about this Stryker house?

A I knew the Strykers for quite a while; friends of the family.

Q I see. You had been out to her house?

A I spoke to Mrs. Stryker.

Q Had you been to Strykers' house before Saturday, September 16th? A. No, sir; I had not.

Q Where did you see her? A. I seen her on Easton Avenue, towards New Brunswick.

Q Were you in the habit of going out Easton Avenue to Buckolo Park? A. Not on Easton Avenue.

Q Were you in the habit of going out Easton Avenue to Buckolo Park? A. Beucheieu Park, yes, sir.

Q I beg your pardon; I accept your correction--had you?

A Yes, sir.

(At this point a recess was taken until ~~xx~~ 1:30)

AFTERNOON SESSION.

JOHN J. UNDERWOOD duly sworn for
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SIMPSON:

Q You are a police inspector of the city of Jersey City?

A I am.

Q The Commissioner of Public Safety, Mr. Beggins, put you at work investigating this crime? A. He did.

Q Did you go to serve warrants, and arrest Mr. William